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20 December 2004

Dear Sirs

European Patent Application No. 02804353.7
MORINAGA MILK INDUSTRY CO., LTD.
Your Ref: OSP-14582
Our Ref: N.91973 TJD/JNM/snb

We attach a copy of the Supplementary Search Report which has now issued for this application. We enclose a further two copies, in addition to two copies of each of the documents which have been cited, with the mail copy of this letter. We have not reviewed the technical content of the cited documents at this stage but would be pleased to do so if you wish.

All the documents have been cited as particularly relevant. Documents in this category frequently give rise to objections of lack of novelty or inventive step. We recommend therefore that they be given careful consideration. Only the abstract of JP 58/224685 has been cited. JP 58/224685 is a Morinaga application. The full text of this application will of course be citable against the subject matter claimed by the present application.

We have also been set a two month term, expiring on 7 February 2005, for confirming that we wish to proceed with substantive examination of this case; two copies of the notification setting the term are enclosed. This does not involve the payment of any official fee since the substantive examination fee has already been paid. We will therefore respond positively to this invitation unless you advise us to the contrary by 4 February 2005.

Yours sincerely


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